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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana was estimated at 1,510,000 for March, an increase of 9,000 from the February revised figure and 13,300 above the comparable period a year ago. The increase in nonmanufacturing payrolls was centered in the construction sector. Manufacturing employment was higher as both the durable and nondurable goods segments experienced increases.

Estimated employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing increased to 75,700 during March, up by 800 workers over the February level. Increased activity at sawmills and planing mills resulted in higher employment for the lumber and wood products industry. More demand for concrete, gypsum and plaster products accounted for the increase in stone, clay and glass products employment. Higher employment in the fabricated structural metal products industry contributed to the increase in fabricated metal products payrolls.

Employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing was estimated at 94,600, an increase of 700 workers from last month. An increase in the manufacturing of men's and boys' furnishings was among the factors resulting in growth in the apparel and other textile products industry. Less business in several segments of the chemicals and allied products industry resulted in lower employment levels.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing industries, at 1,339,700 for the current month, was 7,500 below last month's level. Mining employment was down by 100 workers. General building construction, heavy construction and several special trades all experienced employment growth in March, with heavy construction showing the largest increase. Smaller communications and public utilities payrolls were responsible for the lower transportation and public utilities employment for the current month. Both the wholesale and retail trade segments were responsible for the upturn in trade employment. Finance, insurance and real estate payrolls remained at 81,200 workers for March. Increases in business services, health services and membership organizations were significant in the rise of services employment. Government employment in March was up in large part to an increase in state education payrolls.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 124,800 production workers in manufacturing decreased from $464.63 in February to $464.12 in March, a decrease of $0.51, but an increase of $2.34 above March of last year. Average hourly earnings were $0.12 lower in March than last month, but $0.29 higher than March, 1988. Weekly hours averaged 41.7 during March, an increase of 0.4 hours from last month's figure.

Total unemployment for Louisiana stood at 180,800. The unemployment rate for March was 9.6 percent. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 5.2 percent. The state's civilian labor force increased to 1,888,700 workers. Estimated total employment rose to 1,707,900 for the current month.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change from February 1989	Net Change from March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,510.0	1,501.0	1,496.7	+ 9.0	+13.3
MINING	56.9	56.8	56.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Oil and Gas Extraction	54.3	54.2	53.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	2.6	2.6	2.6	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	87.1	83.6	81.9	+ 3.5	+ 5.2
MANUFACTURING	170.3	168.8	168.3	+ 1.5	+ 2.0
Durable Goods	75.7	74.9	75.1	+ 0.8	+ 0.6
Lumber and Wood Products	12.0	11.8	12.5	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Furniture and Fixtures	0.6	0.7	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.7	5.5	5.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.3	3.3	3.0	0	+ 0.3
Fabricated Metal Products	12.9	12.7	12.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.8
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.2	9.1	8.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	6.5	6.4	6.8	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Transportation Equipment	23.0	22.9	23.3	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.5	2.5	2.2	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	94.6	93.9	93.2	+ 0.7	+ 1.4
Food & Kindred Products	18.9	19.0	19.2	- 0.1	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	10.5	10.1	9.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
Paper & Allied Products	12.4	12.3	11.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Printing & Publishing	10.0	9.9	10.0	+ 0.1	0
Chemicals & Allied Products	27.4	27.2	26.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.9
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.0	11.0	11.3	0	- 0.3
Petroleum Refining	10.1	10.2	10.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	4.4	4.4	4.7	0	- 0.3
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	107.9	108.1	106.3	- 0.2	+ 1.6
Railroad Transportation	5.1	5.1	5.2	0	- 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	62.8	62.6	60.7	+ 0.2	+ 2.1
Water Transportation	25.5	25.2	24.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Communication & Electric, Gas & Sanitary Ser.	40.0	40.4	40.4	- 0.4	- 0.4
Communication, Exc. U S Postal Service	18.1	18.3	18.0	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	21.9	22.1	22.4	- 0.2	- 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	360.2	357.9	356.2	+ 2.3	+ 4.0
Wholesale Trade	81.5	80.8	81.5	+ 0.7	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	45.6	45.3	45.8	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	35.9	35.5	35.7	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	278.7	277.1	274.7	+ 1.6	+ 4.0
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	58.8	58.3	56.2	+ 0.5	+ 2.6
Food Stores	55.4	55.2	55.5	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	29.6	29.5	29.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Eating & Drinking Places	85.1	84.6	83.4	+ 0.5	+ 1.7
Other Retail Trade	49.8	49.5	50.3	+ 0.3	- 0.5

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change from February 1989	Net Change from March 1988
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	81.2	81.2	82.9	0	- 1.7
Banking	22.6	22.6	23.8	0	- 1.2
SERVICES	329.6	328.0	327.5	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.0	21.2	20.8	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Personal Services	14.6	14.4	15.0	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Business Services	62.7	62.2	60.5	+ 0.5	+ 2.2
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	9.6	9.5	9.6	+ 0.1	0
Miscellaneous Repair Services	5.0	5.1	5.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Amusement & Recreation Services	8.4	8.3	8.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Health Services	105.8	105.2	103.2	+ 0.6	+ 2.6
Legal Services	16.0	16.0	15.4	0	+ 0.6
Educational Services	20.1	20.4	22.7	- 0.3	- 2.6
Social Services	18.6	18.7	19.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Membership Organizations	25.7	25.4	25.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Services	16.0	16.0	15.9	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	316.8	316.6	317.1	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Federal	36.6	36.5	36.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
State and Local	280.2	280.1	281.1	+ 0.1	- 0.9
State	93.5	93.2	97.3	+ 0.3	- 3.8
Local	186.7	186.9	183.8	- 0.2	+ 2.9

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the exception of the Lake Charles MSA which is prepared under the auspices of the Louisiana Department of Labor, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$464.12	$464.63	$461.78	41.7	41.3	42.6	$11.13	$11.25	$10.84
Durable Goods	418.06	422.89	414.50	42.4	41.5	42.6	9.86	10.19	9.73
Lumber & Wood Products	359.89	367.21	351.60	43.1	43.1	43.3	8.35	8.52	8.12
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	328.99	351.54	378.63	36.8	37.8	41.2	8.94	9.30	9.19
Fabricated Metal Products	432.90	400.48	439.20	45.0	41.5	45.0	9.62	9.65	9.76
Machinery, ex. Electrical	393.39	393.54	395.16	42.3	41.6	44.3	9.30	9.46	8.92
Electric & Electronic Equip.	503.30	598.77	512.12	40.2	42.8	41.4	12.52	13.99	12.37
Transportation Equipment	463.49	462.89	438.54	42.6	41.0	41.1	10.88	11.29	10.67
Nondurable Goods	505.11	499.78	503.11	41.2	41.1	42.6	12.26	12.16	11.81
Food & Kindred Products	290.67	289.91	304.15	37.7	37.7	38.5	7.71	7.69	7.90
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	207.21	207.19	200.63	36.1	35.6	37.5	5.74	5.82	5.35
Paper & Allied Products	572.87	520.40	571.59	40.6	40.0	43.8	14.11	13.01	13.05
Printing & Publishing	395.12	390.29	390.53	37.1	37.1	38.1	10.65	10.52	10.25
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	757.90	728.62	733.63	46.9	45.2	47.7	16.16	16.12	15.38
Petroleum & Coal Products	649.27	712.78	660.38	41.7	45.4	44.5	15.57	15.70	14.84
Petroleum Refining	663.28	726.41	672.40	41.9	45.6	44.5	15.83	15.93	15.11
MINING	532.80	539.90	537.31	45.0	45.6	46.2	11.84	11.84	11.63
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	504.56	508.73	496.66	40.3	39.9	39.2	12.52	12.75	12.67
BANKING	276.70	276.72	270.38	36.6	36.7	37.5	7.56	7.54	7.21

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 124,800 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 88,900 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1989 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED FEBRUARY 1989 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	REVISED MARCH 1988 Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,888.7	1,707.9	180.8	9.6	1,877.0	1,655.2	221.8	11.8	1,929.4	1,706.3	223.1	11.6
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	59.1	53.6	5.5	9.3	58.7	52.1	6.6	11.3	59.9	53.5	6.4	10.7
Baton Rouge 2/	265.1	245.0	20.1	7.6	263.9	238.7	25.2	9.5	271.8	246.1	25.7	9.4
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	69.0	62.4	6.6	9.5	68.8	60.7	8.1	11.8	71.7	62.5	9.2	12.9
Lafayette 4/	98.2	89.9	8.3	8.5	97.2	87.0	10.2	10.5	100.1	89.4	10.7	10.7
Lake Charles 5/	72.7	65.5	7.2	9.9	72.9	64.1	8.8	12.1	75.6	65.9	9.7	12.8
Monroe 6/	69.4	63.1	6.3	9.0	66.4	58.8	7.6	11.4	69.8	62.0	7.8	11.2
New Orleans 7/	588.4	540.3	48.1	8.2	582.3	525.1	57.2	9.8	597.2	539.5	57.7	9.7
Shreveport 8/	157.8	142.8	15.0	9.5	157.3	138.8	18.5	11.8	163.9	145.4	18.5	11.3

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index" is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services.

All Urban Consumers	Index	%Change from Prior Month	% Change from Prior Year
March 1988	116.5		
March 1989	122.3	+ 0.6	+ 5.0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

	PRELIMINARY MARCH 89				REVISED FEBRUARY 89			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	21,625	19,400	2,225	10.3	21,675	18,800	2,875	13.3
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	9,150	8,075	1,075	11.8	9,300	7,975	1,325	14.2
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	6,150	5,150	1,000	16.1	6,400	4,975	1,425	22.3
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	15,675	13,125	2,550	16.3	15,800	12,600	3,200	20.3
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	13,100	11,850	1,250	9.5	13,050	11,450	1,600	12.2
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,775	6,000	775	11.4	6,825	5,875	950	13.9
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,250	3,450	800	18.8	4,325	3,350	975	22.5
CAMERON (CAMERON)	4,600	4,100	500	10.7	4,500	3,900	600	13.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	4,000	3,200	800	20.2	4,075	3,025	1,050	25.9
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,950	7,250	700	8.8	7,900	7,025	875	11.0
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,025	8,550	1,475	14.7	10,100	8,175	1,925	19.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	12,500	11,100	1,400	11.3	12,600	10,825	1,775	14.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,075	3,050	1,025	25.1	4,300	2,925	1,375	32.0
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	7,150	6,400	750	10.6	7,175	6,175	1,000	14.1
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	13,150	11,525	1,625	12.3	13,175	11,100	2,075	15.7
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	7,975	6,700	1,275	16.0	8,075	6,400	1,675	20.6
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,850	5,925	925	13.6	6,775	5,700	1,075	15.9
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	25,075	22,475	2,600	10.4	24,850	21,675	3,175	12.8
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	11,100	9,500	1,600	14.4	11,175	9,250	1,925	17.2
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,725	5,975	750	11.2	6,650	5,800	850	12.7
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	11,100	9,600	1,500	13.5	11,075	9,250	1,825	16.5
JENA (LASALLE)	6,775	5,850	925	13.8	6,775	5,625	1,150	16.8
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	17,250	16,350	900	5.3	16,875	15,825	1,050	6.4
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,475	4,600	875	15.9	5,550	4,400	1,150	20.7
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	12,200	10,525	1,675	13.8	12,525	10,200	2,325	18.6
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,075	14,350	1,725	10.7	15,850	13,850	2,000	12.6
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	8,625	7,675	950	10.9	8,525	7,400	1,125	13.2
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	7,050	5,975	1,075	15.3	7,250	5,750	1,500	20.7
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,225	3,700	525	12.6	4,200	3,575	625	14.9
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	8,600	7,475	1,125	13.1	8,625	7,200	1,425	16.9
MANY (SABINE)	9,725	8,750	975	10.0	9,700	8,550	1,150	11.8
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	2,800	2,500	300	10.4	2,825	2,425	400	14.0
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	7,800	6,775	1,025	13.1	7,900	6,600	1,300	16.3
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	30,575	25,875	4,700	15.4	30,825	25,025	5,800	18.8
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	24,350	21,350	3,000	12.3	24,450	20,600	3,850	15.8
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	37,125	32,425	4,700	12.7	36,975	31,475	5,500	14.9
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,050	2,625	425	13.8	3,025	2,475	550	18.0
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,325	7,350	975	11.7	8,250	7,075	1,175	14.3
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	18,450	15,925	2,525	13.7	18,425	15,325	3,100	16.9
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	18,525	16,775	1,750	9.5	18,250	16,125	2,125	11.7
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	18,525	16,075	2,450	13.2	18,400	15,450	2,950	16.0
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	19,575	17,325	2,250	11.5	19,600	16,650	2,950	15.1
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	4,825	3,575	1,250	26.0	4,925	3,400	1,525	31.0
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	4,175	3,750	425	10.1	4,125	3,525	600	14.5
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,900	5,325	575	9.9	5,850	5,125	725	12.4

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT MSAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	45.1	44.9	44.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Durable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
MINING	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	1.9	1.7	2.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10.6	10.7	10.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Retail Trade	8.7	8.8	8.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
General Merchandise	1.6	1.7	1.8	- 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Other Retail Trade	3.7	3.7	3.7	0	0
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	11.4	11.5	11.0	- 0.1	+ 0.4
Health Services	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.1	12.9	12.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Federal	3.1	3.0	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
State and Local	10.0	9.9	10.1	+ 0.1	- 0.1
State	4.5	4.5	4.7	0	- 0.2
Local	5.5	5.4	5.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA was estimated at 45,100 for the month of March. This estimate was an increase of 200 over last month and 400 more than March, 1988.

Employment in manufacturing remained unchanged from February at 3,300. This figure was also the same compared to March of last year.

Nonmanufacturing employment for the current month was estimated at 41,800, an overall increase of 200 compared to February. Increases occurred in government and construction while slight declines were noted in services and wholesale and retail trade. Compared to March of last year, increases in government and services, along with decreases in construction and wholesale and retail trade, combined for an overall increase of 400.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	221.1	221.1	220.4	0	+ 0.7
MANUFACTURING	19.4	19.3	19.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.8	0.7	0.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Nondurable Goods	15.1	15.1	14.9	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.6	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	10.7	10.7	10.5	0	+ 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.5	1.5	1.3	0	+ 0.2
MINING	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	23.1	22.9	24.6	+ 0.2	- 1.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.4	10.5	10.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	53.2	53.3	50.7	- 0.1	+ 2.5
Wholesale Trade	11.9	11.9	11.4	0	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	8.4	8.4	8.0	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	3.5	3.5	3.4	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	41.3	41.4	39.3	- 0.1	+ 2.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.6	13.6	13.7	0	- 0.1
Banking	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	45.7	45.8	45.4	- 0.1	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	54.7	54.7	55.4	0	- 0.7
Federal	2.3	2.3	2.2	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.4	52.4	53.2	0	- 0.8
State	29.9	29.9	30.7	0	- 0.8
Local	22.5	22.5	22.5	0	0

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$549.44	$538.47	$538.04	42.2	42.2	42.6	$13.02	$12.76	$12.63
Petro-Chemicals	706.91	691.30	692.81	44.6	44.6	44.9	15.85	15.50	15.43

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 13,000 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, currently estimated at 221,100, remains unchanged from the February revised estimate, but is an increase of 700 from the comparable year-ago figure. More business in manufacturing offset seasonal decreases in nonmanufacturing.

Manufacturing employment, estimated at 19,400, gained 100 over the previous month, due to more business in the durable goods industry of stone, clay and glass products. Over the year, manufacturing employment payrolls have increased in both durable and nondurable goods.

Total nonmanufacturing employment was estimated at 201,700, a loss of 100 over the previous month, but a gain of 400 over the year-ago figure. Construction was up 200 due to more business in special trade contractors. Seasonal losses occurred in retail trade and services, each losing 100 workers over the month. Transportation and public utilities also showed an employment loss of 100 since the previous month. Government employment held steady over the month, but showed a loss of 700 workers from the year-ago revised estimate, with the majority of the losses in state government. Federal government gained 100 workers over the year, while local government showed no change overall. Since last March, employment gains were reported mainly in wholesale and retail trade and services, but were partially offset by losses in all other segments of nonmanufacturing.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 13,000 production workers in all manufacturing for March was $549.44, an increase of $10.97 from the February revised average. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings are up $11.40. Average weekly hours, at 42.2 for March, showed no change from the prior month. Average hourly earnings at $13.02, increased $0.26 from the revised average for February. More overtime by higher paid employees contributed to these changes.

The total civilian labor force for the Baton Rouge MSA is currently estimated at 265,100. Total employment moved upward to 245,000, while unemployment moved downward to 20,100. The local unemployment rate is 7.6 percent.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 2,620 individuals with new or renewal applications and placed 145 applicants in jobs during March, 1989.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	53.8	53.4	53.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
MANUFACTURING	4.3	4.3	4.4	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0
MINING	5.9	5.8	5.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.0	6.0	6.1	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	3.7	3.7	3.8	0	- 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.6	13.4	13.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	3.0	2.9	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	10.6	10.5	10.7	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.2	3.3	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	9.4	9.4	9.2	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	10.6	10.5	10.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.1	10.0	10.1	+ 0.1	0
State	3.0	2.9	2.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	7.1	7.1	7.2	0	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma-Thibodaux MSA in March increased to 53,800, a level 400 above February. The scattered small gains were largely seasonal in nature. Since March, 1988, total employment has increased by 200.

Manufacturing employment totaled 4,300, the same level as the previous month. Both the durable and nondurable goods segments remained unchanged.

Mining showed a seasonal upturn mainly in oil and gas field services. State government edged upward due to increases in educational services. All other segments of nonmanufacturing were unchanged since February.

Estimated unemployment was 6,600 in March. Unemployment presently comprises 9.5 percent of the civilian labor force for the Houma-Thibodaux area. Recipients of regular unemployment benefits totaled 1,232.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	85.2	84.8	84.0	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
MANUFACTURING	6.9	6.7	7.1	+ 0.2	- 0.2
Durable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.8	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	5.1	5.0	5.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.4	1.7	+ 0.1	- 0.2
MINING	11.3	11.3	11.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.6	3.4	3.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.0	6.2	5.8	- 0.2	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	23.3	23.1	22.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade	5.4	5.3	5.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	3.2	3.1	3.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	17.9	17.8	17.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
General Merchandise	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Food Stores	2.7	2.6	2.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
Other Retail Trade	10.6	10.6	10.3	0	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	3.5	3.5	3.7	0	- 0.2
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	17.9	18.0	17.7	- 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	12.7	12.6	12.7	+ 0.1	0
Federal	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
State and Local	11.9	11.8	11.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State	4.9	4.8	4.9	+ 0.1	0
Local	7.0	7.0	6.9	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette area during March, 1989 stood at 85,200, an increase of 400 from the previous month. Compared to a year ago, employment has increased by 1,200.

Manufacturing employment rose by 200 in March but is 200 below the March 1988 revised estimate. Construction increased by 200 workers from the previous month and has increased by 500 workers over the March, 1988 level. Trade was up by 200 from February's revised estimate. Government gained 100 workers from the prior month, but showed no change from the March, 1988 level. Transportation and public utilities was down by 200 from last month's estimate due to a drop in employment in the motor freight and local passenger transportation industries. Services was down by 100 workers due to a slowdown in the business services sector of the economy.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	58.5	58.7	58.1	- 0.2	+ 0.4
MANUFACTURING	10.9	10.8	11.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Durable Goods	2.5	2.5	2.7	0	- 0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	2.6	0	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	8.4	8.3	8.4	+ 0.1	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.7	7.6	7.7	+ 0.1	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	4.1	4.3	3.6	- 0.2	+ 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.5	13.7	13.4	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Retail Trade	11.0	11.2	10.9	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.5	2.1	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
Banking	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
SERVICES	11.9	11.8	11.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
GOVERNMENT	10.4	10.4	10.6	0	- 0.2
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	9.8	9.8	10.0	0	- 0.2
State	3.0	3.0	3.3	0	- 0.3
Local	6.8	6.8	6.7	0	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA was estimated at 58,500, a decrease of 200 workers from the February, 1989 revised figure. Compared to a year ago, employment in the area has increased by 400 workers.

Manufacturing was up by 100 in the chemical and petroleum products industries. Compared to March, 1988, this sector decreased by 200 workers. Services showed an increase of 100 in March due to growth in the health industry. Construction decreased by 200 employees from February's revised estimate but is showing an increase of 500 workers over the March, 1988 figure. Trade decreased by 200 due to a decrease in employment in food stores and clothing stores. All other sectors showed no change from February's revised estimate.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	54.1	53.7	54.7	+ 0.4	- 0.6
MANUFACTURING	7.5	7.4	7.5	+ 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.2	2.1	2.2	+ 0.1	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	1.9	2.0	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	5.3	5.3	5.3	0	0
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Allied Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	+ 0.1
MINING	0.5	0.4	0.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.1	2.0	2.3	+ 0.1	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.9	2.7	2.9	+ 0.2	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	13.4	13.4	14.2	0	- 0.8
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.5	3.8	0	- 0.3
Retail Trade	9.9	9.9	10.4	0	- 0.5
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.3	2.2	2.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.2	3.4	0	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.3	4.4	4.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Banking	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	12.0	12.0	11.5	0	+ 0.5
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.6	0.5	- 0.1	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Health Services	5.4	5.4	5.2	0	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	11.4	11.4	11.5	0	- 0.1
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	10.8	10.8	10.9	0	- 0.1
State	4.7	4.6	4.7	+ 0.1	0
Local	6.1	6.2	6.2	- 0.1	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment, estimated at 54,100 during March, was up 400 from the February estimate of 53,700.

Manufacturing rose by 100 to an estimated 7,500. The increase was in durable goods.

Mining and construction each had minimal gains of 100 as weather conditions improved. Transportation and public utilities rose by 200 workers. Finance, insurance and real estate had a loss of 100. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	517.4	516.7	513.9	+ 0.7	+ 3.5
MANUFACTURING	42.7	42.8	43.6	- 0.1	- 0.9
Durable Goods	22.2	22.2	22.7	0	- 0.5
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
Machinery	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
Transportation Equipment	13.6	13.6	13.9	0	- 0.3
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	10.0	10.0	10.2	0	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Nondurable Goods	20.5	20.6	20.9	- 0.1	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	5.7	5.9	5.9	- 0.2	- 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Paper & Allied Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.7	3.6	3.7	+ 0.1	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.8	4.8	4.8	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
MINING	15.2	15.3	15.2	- 0.1	0
Oil & Gas Extraction	14.3	14.4	14.3	- 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	22.5	22.1	21.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	44.6	44.3	43.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Railroad Transportation	1.4	1.4	1.5	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	13.5	13.2	12.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	134.4	133.9	132.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.7
Wholesale Trade	32.2	32.1	31.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	18.6	18.5	18.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	13.6	13.6	13.4	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	102.2	101.8	101.2	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
General Merchandise	13.7	13.7	13.6	0	+ 0.1
Food Stores	20.3	20.3	20.2	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	34.4	34.1	33.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	33.4	33.6	33.7	- 0.2	- 0.3
Banking	7.1	7.1	7.1	0	0
SERVICES	138.0	138.1	137.0	- 0.1	+ 1.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	12.8	13.1	12.9	- 0.3	- 0.1
Health Services	37.4	37.3	36.3	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
GOVERNMENT	86.6	86.6	86.6	0	0
Federal	16.1	16.1	15.8	0	+ 0.3
State and Local	70.5	70.5	70.8	0	- 0.3
State	18.6	18.6	18.9	0	- 0.3
Local	51.9	51.9	51.9	0	0

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**	March '89*	Feb. '89**	March '88**
All MANUFACTURING	$449.76	$440.36	$435.35	41.3	40.4	41.7	$10.89	$10.90	$10.44
Durable Goods	393.05	385.67	381.36	40.9	40.3	40.7	9.61	9.57	9.37
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	279.00	287.68	266.10	30.0	31.1	30.0	9.30	9.25	8.87
Fabricated Metal Products	397.99	364.09	429.43	41.2	36.3	42.9	9.66	10.03	10.01
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	375.42	372.04	350.15	41.3	41.2	39.7	9.09	9.03	8.82
Nondurable Goods	511.66	500.19	493.19	41.7	40.6	42.7	12.27	12.32	11.55
Food & Kindred Products	307.52	308.45	324.70	35.8	35.7	37.8	8.59	8.64	8.59
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	212.49	210.98	184.45	36.2	35.4	35.0	5.87	5.96	5.27
Paper & Allied Products	374.88	405.20	438.02	44.0	43.9	48.4	8.52	9.23	9.05
Printing & Publishing	390.25	377.33	364.80	39.3	38.9	39.1	9.93	9.70	9.33
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	846.19	782.21	821.10	50.1	44.8	52.1	16.89	17.46	15.76

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,200 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans MSA in March increased to 517,400, a level 700 above the February estimate. Gains were mostly seasonal in nature. Since last March, nonagricultural employment gained 3,500 workers. Increases in some industry divisions were partly offset by decreases in others.

Manufacturing employment totaled 42,700, down 100 from the previous month. Food and kindred products experienced a loss of employment due to seasonal decreases. Printing and publishing increased employment due to more business.

Mining showed minor losses mostly in the oil and gas extraction segments. Construction was boosted by significant increases in special trade and building construction contracts. Gains in transportation and public utilities were due to a rise in local port activity. Wholesale and retail trade exhibited considerable seasonal gains. Finance, insurance and real estate showed losses. Services displayed a slight seasonal decrease. Government showed no change over the previous month.

Production workers in the area earned an average of $449.76 per week in March, up $9.40 from last month's average. Average weekly hours were 41.3, up 0.9 hours from the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $10.89, down one cent from the previous month. Compared to one year ago, weekly earnings are up $14.41 in manufacturing.

Estimated unemployment for March is 48,100. The current unemployment rate for this area is 8.2 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 8,921.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	March 1989*	February 1989**	March 1988**	Net Change From February 1989	Net Change From March 1988
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	127.9	128.3	129.6	- 0.4	- 1.7
MANUFACTURING	17.3	17.2	18.1	+ 0.1	- 0.8
Durable Goods	12.5	12.4	12.9	+ 0.1	- 0.4
Lumber and Wood Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Metals and Machinery	7.1	7.1	7.5	0	- 0.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.0	1.9	1.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	5.1	5.2	5.9	- 0.1	- 0.8
Other Durable Goods	5.0	4.9	5.0	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Good	4.8	4.8	5.2	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.8	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	- 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	- 0.2
MINING	3.0	3.1	3.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	6.0	6.0	5.9	0	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.1	8.2	8.0	- 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	31.3	31.4	31.3	- 0.1	0
Wholesale Trade	7.3	7.3	7.4	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	24.0	24.1	23.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.4	6.4	6.9	0	- 0.5
SERVICES	30.4	30.4	30.6	0	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	25.4	25.6	25.6	- 0.2	- 0.2
Federal	4.8	4.9	4.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
State and Local	20.6	20.7	20.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
State	6.4	6.4	6.3	0	+ 0.1
Local	14.2	14.3	14.4	- 0.1	- 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March '89*	February '89**	March '88**	March '89*	February '89**	March '88**	March '89*	February '89**	March '88**
All MANUFACTURING	$471.33	$475.61	$472.40	41.2	39.8	40.9	$11.44	$11.95	$11.55
Lumber and Wood Products	334.40	270.76	256.19	38.0	33.1	37.4	8.80	8.18	6.85
Metals and Machinery	422.58	414.80	456.88	43.7	42.5	42.5	9.67	9.76	10.75
Food and Kindred Products	347.01	390.78	332.48	43.0	46.8	39.3	8.07	8.35	8.46
Printing and Publishing	298.14	284.80	342.14	30.8	29.3	35.2	9.68	9.72	9.72
Petroleum and Coal Products	538.65	770.08	540.67	39.9	51.1	44.1	13.50	15.07	12.26

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Shreveport MSA dropped to 127,900, a level 400 below the revised February estimate of 128,300 and 1,700 below the year-ago estimate of 129,600. Job losses since last month occurred in nonmanufacturing, while manufacturing employment rose slightly.

Total manufacturing employment, estimated at 17,300, moved up slightly from 17,200 in February. This increase was spread through most segments of other durable goods manufacturing.

Total nonmanufacturing employment, estimated at 110,600, was 500 less than the February estimate of 111,100 and 900 less than the March, 1988 estimate of 111,500. Mining, transportation and public utilities, retail trade, federal government and local government each showed job losses of 100.

The Shreveport MSA's 12,600 production workers in manufacturing had average weekly earnings of $471.33, compared to the February average of $475.61 and $472.40 for March, 1988. Average weekly hours increased to 41.2 from 39.8 in February and 40.9 one year ago. Average hourly earnings of $11.44 moved down from $11.95 in February and $11.55 in March, 1988.

The civilian labor force for the Shreveport MSA was 157,800, including 142,800 employed and 15,000 unemployed. The unemployment rate was 9.5 percent.

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